website i.e. mib.nic.in. The Government has already started the process of consulting the Members of Prasar Bharati Board and representatives of staff and employees union for taking a final view. The report has also been circulated among the Members of the consultative committee for seeking their views.

(c) No time frame can be specified for implementing the recommendation s.

Promotion of classical music programmes

1515. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that classical music programmes can be aired on AIR provided the artists bring their own sponsors;

(b) if so, whether it has come to the notice of Government that artists are not able to get sponsors; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to promote classical music without insisting the artists to bring sponsors?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) No Sir, Prasar Bharati has informed that there is no practice of asking the artists to bring sponsorship for their own programmes in AIR.

(c) It remains the constant endeavour of AIR to encourage the classical music artists of Hindustani and Karnatic music. Programmes are offered to the artists regularly according to their grades. In order to encourage the classical music artists, AIR holds local concerts and Akashvani Sangeet Sammelan. Artists are also invited for National hook-up programme, which is broadcast twice a week.

Upgradation of AIR and DD Network

1516. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to upgrade the existing AIR and DD network for the past three years;

(b) the details of the ongoing *AI*R and DD projects in Tamil Nadu; and

(c) the schedule for the completion of the same?